

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-04 /072 W

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R 130952Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 13531

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: THE HARVEST AND LAND REFORM

REF: ADDIS 13189

1. THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE HARVEST SEASON AND LAND REFORM EXPECTATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO INTERACT AND TO CREATE AS YET ISOLATED CONFLICT SITUATIONS. A WELL PLACED BORANA SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT SOME OF THE CURRENT BORANA-GUJJI FIGHTING IS RELATED TO HARVEST-LANDLORD PRESSURES WHICH HAVE RESULTED IN SOME GUJJI BEING DISPLACED ONTO BORANA LAND. THE NICE-ADMINISTRATOR OF KAFFA TOLD POL COUNSELOR LAST WEEK THAT HE HAD JUST SQUELCHED YET ANOTHER BUDDING TENANT-LANDLORD SET-TO IN HIS AREA "AND THEY NOW CALL ME THE LOCAL KISSINGER." PRESS, NOVEMBER 12, CARRIED REPORT THAT "750 SHOANS FORCED OUT OF THEIR ANCESTRAL HOLDINGS AND SETTLED IN KAFFA 18 YEARS AGO ARE FINALLY SCORING VICTORY IN THEIR PROTRACTED WAR WITH RESIDENTS CLAIMING A STAKE ON THE 50 GASHAS TAMED BY THE IMMIGRANTS. THE ISSUE, INVOLVING UPWARD

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OF 7000 PEOPLE, WAS ON POINT OF BURSTING IN A VIOLENT FASHION

BEFORE IT WAS DECIDED THIS WEEK THAT THE SHOANS SHOULD REMAIN ON THE LAND UNTIL A DECISION IS MADE ON THE LAND REFORM BILL NOW BEING CONSIDERED BY PMAC."

2. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER INCIDENT REPORTED IN PRESS AS HAVING BEEN PREVENTED IN EXTREMIS IS THAT SETTLED BY "THE LOCAL KISSINGER" OR WHETHER IT IS A DIFFERENT ONE. IT DOES, HOWEVER, TESTIFY TO THE STRESSES ASSOCIATED WITH LAND REFORM EXPECTATIONS WHICH THE UPCOMING HARVEST CAN ONLY EXACERBATE.

3. EMAC WOULD SEEM TO HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEM POSED BY THE CONVERGENCE OF THESE EXPECTATIONS WITH THE HARVEST. THE LOGIC OF EVENTS SUGGESTS THAT IT SHOULD ISSUE A LIMITED TEMPORARY DECREE, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH WOULD SEEK TO MINIMIZE CONFLICTING CLAIMS TO A SHARE OF THE HARVEST BASED ON ANTICIPATED MAJOR LAND REFORMS WHICH ARE MANIFESTLY DIFFICULT TO AGREE AS WELL AS LIKELY INCAPABLE OF TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION.

4. WHETHER THE "DIRG" IS PREPARED TO GO THIS ROUTE IS CURRENTLY MOOT. THE EMBASSY HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF TWO LAND REFORM DRAFT DECREES BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED. THEY WILL BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. THESE DOCUMENTS CONTAIN FAR-REACHING PROPOSALS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THE MOST CAREFUL EXPLANATION AND PREPARATION IF SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES ARE TO BE AVOIDED. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE PROJECT SAID NOW TO BE UNDER CONSIDERATION BUT UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS OF A SIMILARLY FAR-REACHING NATURE.

WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS13531
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740327-0191
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741149/aaaabozm.tel
Line Count: 89
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: ADDIS 13189
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 MAY 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THE HARVEST AND LAND REFORM
TAGS: PINS, PINT, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005